

Council Forum

Thursday, 3rd October, 2019

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Blackburn Town Hall

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **Prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain**
3. **Minutes Of The Previous Meeting**
Minutes July 2019 **5 - 10**
4. **Declarations of Interest**
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FORM **11**
5. **Mayoral Communications**
6. **Council Forum**
To consider questions from members of the public received under Procedure Rule 12
7. **To consider Motions submitted under Procedure Rule 12**
One Motion has been submitted as follows:

Human Rights Violation in Kashmir

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council is deeply concerned that the Indian Government has revoked Articles 370 and 35A of the Indian Constitution.

This decision is in violation of United Nation Security Council Resolution 47.

There is a huge concern among the BwD BME Community and also many people from Indigenous community about the ongoing human rights violation in Kashmir.

In occupied Kashmir, the imposition of a strict curfew, the detention of the entire political leadership, large- scale

arrests of thousands of innocent Kashmiris coupled with the extremely harsh suppression of all human rights and a freeze of land line, mobile and internet communications is fast leading to a major humanitarian crisis for more than 8million people. The supply of food, medicine and other necessities of life are also deliberately withheld.

Since 5th August India has transformed Jammu and Kashmir into the largest prison on the Planet.

The Indian Government has moved 18,000 troops into Kashmir in addition to the existing 700,000 occupational armed forces. They use Cluster ammunition, pellet guns and heavy artillery in flagrant disregard of the fundamental norms of International humanitarian law.

The Kashmiri people in the occupied territory have been waiting for seven decades for their right of self-determination and now they face grave threats to their lives from a murderous, misogynistic and xenophobic regime.

The Council:

- a) Request the Chief Executive to write to the both MPs of Blackburn with Darwen requesting them to ask the Government to make representation to all whom they can to demand India to reverse the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A and to raise with the Foreign Office the need to work for the implementation of UN Resolution 47 on Kashmir and push for a diplomatic solution.

Also

- b) that the Chief Executive write to Dominic Raab the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs - to
 - i) Urge the Indian government to immediately restore power and to lift all communications and media blackouts and the draconian curfew conditions and to allow the people of Kashmir to have immediate access to food and medicine.
 - ii) To demand that all political leaders are freed and all obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and various human rights instruments restored as required by international law.
 - iii) To request that the International Human Rights Observers Group in Kashmir, including Amnesty

International, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Commission are allowed access again and that the Indian armed forces immediately cease unlawful operations in Kashmir.

Mover- Councillor Mustafa Desai

Seconded – Councillor Andy Kay

8.	Hate Crime Update	
	Hate Crime Update	12 - 15
9.	Updates from other Committees	
	Overview and Scrutiny Report	16 - 19
	The Chairs of the Policy and Resources, PLACE AND PEOPLE Overview and Scrutiny Committees will update Council Forum on the work of their Committees.	
10.	Reports of the Executive Members with Portfolios:	
10.1	Leader	
	Leader	20 - 23
10.2	Growth & Development	
	Growth & Development	24 - 26
10.3	Children, Young People & Education	
	CS&YP	27 - 29
10.4	Environmental Services	
	ENV SERVICES	30 - 31
10.5	Public Health & Wellbeing	
	Public Health Wellbeing Council Forum Report 03.10.19	32 - 35
10.6	Adult Services & Prevention	
	AS&P	36 - 37
10.7	Digital & Customer Services	
	D&CS	38 - 39
10.8	Finance & Governance	
	F&G	40 - 41
11.	To consider any questions received from Members under Procedure Rule 11	

PART 2: ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

There are no items to be considered under Part 2.

Date Published: Wednesday, 25 September 2019
Denise Park, Chief Executive